entire Southern region of DESU to look after breakdowns;

(c) if so, what is the number of staff that have been provided in the Southern Region of DESU and how many vehicles are available to attend the breakdowns; and

(d) whether Government have any proposal to streamline DESU working in order to prevent frequent breakdowns and burning of meters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) According to DESU, it has adequate arrangements for attending to the breakdown complaints, including the provision of transport vehicles for this purpose.

(b) and (c) There are four Distribution Districts in the South Circle of DESU and each District has been provided with one breakdown vehicle. 4 additional vehicles are also made available during evening/night shifts. 16 Superintendent (Technical), 27 Linemen, 13 Fitters, 96 Mazdoors and 16 Drivers have been provided for attending to the breakdowns in the South Circle of DESU.

(d) DESU is augmenting and strengthening its transmission and distribution system at various voltage leavels to improve its power supply system.

Power Theft in Kanpur and Lucknow

967. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have directed some of the specific cases of power thefts by some consumers of electricity in Kanpur and Lucknow to the UPSEB for proper investigation and action;

(b) whether even after such directions the UPSEB has not yet acted into the matter properly;

(c) whether the UPSEB due to above reason is losing heavily on financial matters and is increasingly becoming dependent of finance from Central Government;

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(e) what action is proposed to be taken by Government to identify the lapses of the UPSEB?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Deprivatisation of coal mines

968. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 27 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th July, 1991 and state:

(a) whether Government have decided to deprivatise the coal mines particularly in the State of Bihar; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI S. B. NYAMAGOUDA): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, all leases for winning or mining of coal granted in favour of private persons except those engaged in the production of iron and steel, stand terminated w.e.f. 29-4-1976 and no lease for winning or mining coal can be granted in favour of any person other than the Government companies or Corporation. At present there is no proposal to amend these provisions.